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1996/03/15

UNCLASSIFIED

ERRORS= n/a

CONCEPTS= n/a

TAGS= PREL, PHUM, MOPS, CH, TW, KS, KN, US

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EXCISE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY IM/IPS/CR/IR 1 Date: 10 Jun 97
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY IN PART EO Citations _____
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POIA Exemptions B1 TS authority to
PA Exemptions CLASSIFY as S or C Sec. _____
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 AID-00 AIT-03 CIAE-00 OASY-00
DODE-00 DOEE-00 ANHR-01 SRPP-00 EB-01 FBIE-00 H-01
TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 SAL-00 L-01 ADS-00 M-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00
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PMB-00 PRM-10 PRME-01 DRL-09 G-00 /042W
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R 151014Z MAR 96
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0998
INFO AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AIT TAIPEI 0180
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 008250

DEPARTMENT - PLEASE PASS TO NSC

E.O. 12958: DECL: (1.6X5)

TAGS: PREL, PHUM, MOPS, CH, TW, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ROK AMBASSADOR: TAIWAN FOCUS

REFS: A) SEOUL 1305; B) BEIJING 7815

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1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JAMES R. SASSER.
REASON: 1.5 (B).
2. (C) SUMMARY: THE AMBASSADOR'S COURTESY CALL ON RECENTLY ARRIVED ROK AMBASSADOR CHUNG FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON CURRENT CROSS-STRAIT TENSIONS. CHUNG SAID THAT BARRING A MISCALCULATION, HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT PRESENT TENSIONS WOULD BE ALLEVIATED FOLLOWING THE MARCH 23 TAIWAN ELECTIONS. AMBASSADOR SASSER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT

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END SUMMARY

CROSS-STRAIT TENSIONS

3. (C) THE AMBASSADOR PAID A FORTY-MINUTE COURTESY CALL MARCH 13 ON ROK AMBASSADOR CHUNG CHONG HOOK, WHO NOTED THAT HE HAD ARRIVED JUST TWO DAYS PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR SASSER. CHUNG OPENED BY EXPRESSING HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT. CHUNG SAID IT WAS HIS VIEW THAT

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FEAR OF A POSSIBLE MISCALCULATION. BARRING SUCH AN OCCURRENCE, CHUNG SAID HE REMAINED HOPEFUL THAT THE SITUATION "WILL CALM DOWN IN THE NEAR FUTURE." AMBASSADOR SASSER RESPONDED THAT HE SHARED SIMILAR

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VIEWS. CHINA, CHUNG NOTED, HAD TWO SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY GOALS -- TO SHOW DETERMINATION WITH REGARD TO TAIWAN AND, AT THE SAME TIME, TO MAINTAIN CLOSE ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN, WHICH SERVED BOTH CHINESE NATIONAL INTERESTS AND THE STABILITY OF THE REGION.

4. (C) AMBASSADOR CHUNG SAID THAT HE REGARDED JIANG ZEMIN'S EIGHT-POINT SPEECH IN JANUARY 1995 AS THE STARTING POINT FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION, SINCE THE TAIWAN RESPONSE TO THAT HAD NOT BEEN WHAT WAS EXPECTED. AMBASSADOR SASSER NOTED AS WELL TAIWAN'S STEPPED UP "PRAGMATIC DIPLOMACY," ITS UN ADMISSION CAMPAIGN, AND ITS SUCCESSFUL LOBBYING FOR A LEE TENG-HUI VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

USING ROK GOOD OFFICES

5. (C) AMBASSADOR SASSER NOTED THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED STRONG DISAPPROVAL OF THE MISSILE FIRINGS IN A MARCH 11 MEETING WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LI ZHAOXING. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE REPORT THAT

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NOTING THAT ROK FOREIGN MINISTER GONG RO MYUNG'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO BEIJING WOULD TAKE PLACE SOON, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER THE CHINESE MILITARY EXERCISES HAD AFFECTION THE TIMING OF THE VISIT. CHUNG REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THE EXERCISES WOULD BE COMPLETED ON MARCH 20, THE DATE OF GONG'S ARRIVAL. HE DESCRIBED THE VISIT AS "A LONG-DELAYED, PREVIOUSLY-SCHEDULED" EVENT AND EMPHASIZED THAT "THERE WERE NO BURNING ISSUES" BETWEEN CHINA AND THE ROK.

6. (C) []

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0999
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CHI HAOTIAN VISIT SEEN AS IMPORTANT SIGNAL

7. (C) AMBASSADOR CHUNG ASKED IF PRESENT TENSIONS HAD ANY EFFECT ON CHINESE DEFENSE MINISTER CHI HAOTIAN'S UPCOMING PLANNED VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. AMBASSADOR SASSER SAID THE CHINESE WERE STILL DISCUSSING THE VISIT AND THAT HE TOOK THIS AS A SIGNAL THAT THEY WANTED TO KEEP THE DOOR OPEN. AMBASSADOR CHUNG OPINED THAT THE CHINESE REACTION TO RECENT AMERICAN ACTIONS ON TAIWAN, IN CONTRAST TO THE AFTERMATH OF LEE TENG-HUI'S VISIT, SEEMED CONSTRAINED. CHUNG CALLED THE APPARENT CHINESE DECISION TO GO FORWARD WITH THE CHI HAOTIAN VISIT "AN IMPORTANT SIGNAL."

OTHER ISSUES

8. (C) AMBASSADOR CHUNG BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON HUMAN RIGHTS, NOTING THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER ISSUE ON WHICH CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES "SEE THINGS IN A DIFFERENT WAY." CHUNG SUGGESTED THAT HE AND AMBASSADOR SASSER RESTART THE TRADITION OF PERIODIC MEETINGS TOGETHER WITH THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR. AMBASSADOR SASSER CONCURRED. SASSER